

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-5, without prejudice.

Please amend claim 6 as follows:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A screening method for identifying a potential antiviral agent comprising:

(a) contacting a cell that expresses (i) a reporter gene operatively linked to an interferon responsive promoter element and (ii) an interferon antagonist, with a test agent, following stimulation of a cellular interferon response;

(b) monitoring a level of reporter gene product; and

(c) identifying the test agent as a potential antiviral agent when its presence results in an increase in reporter gene product.

7. (Pending) The screening method of claim 6, wherein the reporter gene product is green fluorescence protein (GFP).

8. (Pending) The screening method of claim 6, wherein the interferon antagonist is NS1 protein.

9. (Pending) The screening method of claim 6, wherein the interferon antagonist is E3L protein.

10. (Pending) The screening method of claim 6, wherein the interferon antagonist is VP35 protein.